

HONORING TOM TEMIN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tom Temin for over 17 years of service providing the Federal technology community with unbiased, accurate, and timely information.

Through Mr. Temin's role as executive vice president and editor in chief of Government Computer News, Washington Technology, Defense Systems, Government Leader and other technology publications, he has brought valuable insight and creative journalism to the Federal IT arena.

Under Tom's guidance Government Computer News has become a premier IT magazine providing objective and comprehensive rankings of the usefulness and overall value of technology as it reaches the market. Leaders in the executive branch, both Houses of Congress and the broader technology community have come to consider the editorials he has written for Government Computer News as shrewd and perceptive analysis of the implications of IT trends.

The newspaper's fair and unyielding pursuit of issues showing the flaws and faults in the Federal technology sector has prompted numerous reforms that continue to conserve funds and improve performance for the American taxpayers.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. Tom Temin on all of his accomplishments. His tireless efforts have deeply impacted the public discussion of IT issues in the Federal Government, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Tom for his past accomplishments and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this critical legislation.

The Part D prescription drug plan has caused mass confusion and, unfortunately, provided more in profits to drug companies than savings to seniors.

Private corporations, large pharmacy chains, and individual states all use their bargaining power to secure lower drug prices for the patients they represent. It simply makes no sense that the Department of Health and Human Services is prohibited from negotiating on behalf of millions more seniors.

In fact, a recent study by Families USA found that Medicare beneficiaries pay an average of 58 percent more for the same prescription drugs sold to patients who receive their drugs from the Veterans Department, which can negotiate cheaper prices.

Using the bargaining power of 42 million Medicare enrollees to secure the best drug prices for our seniors could save billions, according to some estimates.

These savings could then be used to begin to close the infamous "doughnut hole" or gaps in coverage that millions of seniors experienced last year and are expected to experience again in 2007.

Allowing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate prices won't solve all of the problems associated with the drug benefit but it will set us on the right course toward providing our seniors with the comprehensive, affordable drug coverage they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill.

A TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE EDD NYE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina Representative Edd Nye and to thank him for more than 30 years of loyal public service to the people of Southeastern North Carolina. Representative Nye began his career in public service by joining the United States Air Force and launched his political career in 1966 as a Bladen County Commissioner. Mr. Nye served one term in the North Carolina State Senate before moving on to the N.C. House of Representatives, where he would go on to serve as a Representative for 30 years. As a loyal and dedicated North Carolina lawmaker, Representative Nye received "Legislator of the Year" awards from numerous advocacy groups, including the Autism Society, the Easter Seals, the Health Directors' Association, and the Mental Health Association. Such distinguished commitment and work are true signs of his dedication to his constituents. Indeed, Representative Nye is a role model for us all.

In addition to his political service, Mr. Nye is also an active member of his community in Bladen County. He has taught Sunday School and served as a deacon at the Elizabethtown Baptist Church. He is a past moderator of the Bladen Baptist Association, a former trustee of both Bladen Community College and Southeastern Mental Health, and an active member of the Bladen Masonic Lodge. Madam Speaker, I commend Edd Nye for his leadership, longevity, and love for the people of Bladen County and North Carolina. He has performed his civic duty with grace, and he has been ever mindful of the people he represents. May God's strength, joy, and peace be with him always.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act. The rising cost of education is a concern for students and parents across the country. Occasionally, I hold office hours at grocery stores in my district back in Chicago.

Every time people attend to share their concerns my constituents let me know that they are worried about the cost of higher education.

They worry about being able to send their children to college without taking out a new mortgage on their homes or working a second job. They worry about dipping into their retirement savings in order to pay the exorbitant cost of tuition. And they are not only worried, but they are also shocked by the tuition increases from year to year for their children who are already in college.

It is our responsibility to make sure that the price of a college education does not close doors for the future leaders of America. Today we will correct a grave mistake of the past and pass the College Student Relief Act—ensuring those doors never close.

This legislation is long overdue. The last Congress neglected to deal with college affordability—allowing the cost to skyrocket and leaving millions behind in their desire for a higher education. Tuition and fees at public universities have increased by 41 percent since 2001, and interest rates on student loans have risen to record-breaking highs. The maximum Pell grant was frozen in the President's budget for a fourth year in a row. Today, the maximum Pell grant covers only 41 percent of the cost of attending college—about half of what it covered three decades ago.

In my home state of Illinois, the average graduate from a state university leaves with more than \$15,000 in debt. This massive debt limits the choices that graduates can make, and discourages many students from seeking a college education at all.

The College Student Relief Act takes the first step toward correcting this great injustice, providing real relief to students and middle class families by making a college education more affordable and accessible.

A college education should be as universal in the 21st century as a high school education was in the 20th century. This legislation is the first step towards accomplishing that goal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that helping students with their college loans is part of the Democratic 100 hours plan. I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act.

PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently announced that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas would meet with her to discuss how peace can finally be brought to the Middle East. I am pleased to hear of this three-way meeting and believe a meaningful resolution is long overdue.

Since the year 2000, Israel has demonstrated a willingness to act unilaterally in the name of peace; only to have their enemies respond with more acts of violence. In 2000, Israel withdrew its forces from southern Lebanon, only to be followed by Hezbollah and its missiles. In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew